

THE REHEARSAL.

1. The Review Provokes me again. Why I left him off.
2. He alledges *Scandal* against Mr. *Heriot*. This is the last Refuge of the *Kirk*.
3. Exemplify'd in the Case of Mr. *John Pearson*.
4. The Reputation of a young *Gentlewoman* Expos'd by the *Presbytery*.
5. Mr. *Pearson* Clear'd.
6. Yet further *Prosecuted*, and no *Reparation* made him.
7. He was *Cited* before the *Presbytery* the same Day his *Wife* was *Bury'd*.

WEDNESDAY, December 22. 1708.

(1.) Country-m. I Have been ask'd, *Master*, why you say nothing to the *Review*? For he strikes in with the *Observator* as to those *Affaires* in *Scotland* you have been speaking of.

Rehearsal. The *Observator* has Refus'd his Help, and told him that a *Pillory'd Evidence* is not Good in *Law*. Yet now he Courts the *Observator* to Join with him against me. But his *Veracity* is so *Bankrupt*, has been so often and so *Notoriously Detected*, especially in his *Experiment*, which he *Dedicates* with so much *Pomp* and *Assurance* to the *Queen* her self, and *Desires* her to take her *Estimate* of the *Dissenters* (whose *Cause* he *Maintains*) and of his own *Worthy Worship*, by that *Book*, and as every word in it is exactly *Truth*: And since it has been *Detected*, past any Possibility of *Defence*, to be all one *Continu'd Lye*, not a *Chance-Lye*, through *Inadvertence*, or *Mis-Information*, but a *Study'd*, *Deliberate*, and *Concerted Forgery*, stood in and *Maintain'd* with false *Oaths*, and *Counterfeit Affidavits*, and a *Joint-Purse* to Support the most *Scandalous Impostor* of the *Age*, in a *Chargeable Suit* against the *Clergy*, to *Blacken* them, and *Render* the *Church* *Odious* to the *Nation*: And when all this was made so *Evident*, as that it cou'd not be *Deny'd*, yet the *Author* in his *Reviews* (which I have before *Examin'd*) has not the *Grace* to be *Asham'd* or *Repent*, but gives still his *Word* that it is all *Truth*, as a full *Answer* to all the *Depositions*, *Oaths* and *Certificates* by which it has been *Detected*, without offering any other *Proof* against them. And the *Party* who *Employ'd* him to Write this *Noble History*, have now no *Remedy* left, but to *Buy up* this *Book*, as they have done, that it is now hardly to be got in any *Bookseller's Shop* in *Town*. Thus they

have been forc'd to *Eat up* their own *Dung*! And their *Breath* is so *Strong*, that I have *Quit* their *Company*, and their *Advocate* so *Shameless*, that I have of a long time left off *Reading* his *Papers*, supposing them to be *Render'd* so *Harmless*, as being *Disarm'd* of all *Credit*, that they cou'd *Hurt* no body.

(2.) Country-m. Yet, *Master*, some will believe his *Facts*. And you know he wants no *Modesty* in *Asserting*. I have heard say, (for I have *Read* him no more than you) That he says Mr. *Heriot* of *Musselburg* whom you *Instance* as a *Complying Clergy-Man* whose *Meeting-House* is *Shut up*, was *Censur'd* by the *Kirk Judicatories* there as *Guilty* of several *Immoralities*.

Rehearsal. That may be, when they were his *Judges*! But was it for this his *Meeting House* was *Shut up*? I will be at the *Penance* to *Read* one *Review* more. And take time to *Enquire* into the *Fact*. Till when I will take Mr. *Review's* word, no more than about *Abraham Gill*, *Taunton*, *Oakhampton*, *Weather-Cock*, &c.

But I will here put in one *Caveat* for all. That the *Proceedings* of the *Kirk-Judicatories* against *Episcopal Clergy-Men* are not to be taken in *Evidence* by any *Impartial Man*. I think I need not give the *Reason*—

But I will give an *Instance* which (if need) will *Cure* any *Man's Credulity* of the *Equality* of their *Judgment*.

(3.) It is the Case of Mr. *John Pearson* an *Episcopal Clergy-Man*, who had *Qualify'd* as to the *Civil Government* (all their *Complaints* of *Immoralities* are against such) who had a most *Scandalous Libel* rais'd against him (last Year 1707) by the *Presbytery*

bytery of *Dunkeld*, wherein he was Charg'd among other things with no less than Eight or Ten *Adulteries*, tho' ther was no body who *Accus'd* him. But that they might not want Information, they Summon'd about 50 or 60 People (whom they pleas'd) and made them *Swear* whether Mr. *Pearson* was not Guilty of such and such things particularly of *Adultery*, or *Attempts* of *Adultery* with such and such Women by Name. And they made several Women *Swear* against themselves, whether Mr. *Pearson* had not been Guilty with them. And when they had Purg'd themselves upon Oath, yet others were Examined as to them, whereby their Names and the Scandal was made Publick. They Examined one Man against his own Wife, whether Mr. *Pearson* had not Committed *Adultery* with her. For which he gave them an Answer they Deserv'd, but I will not here Repeat. Ther are some Broad Words in it, and a Hearty Scotch Curse or two.

(4.) But ther is a Young Unmarry'd Gentlewoman (whose Name is in a Letter now before me, but I will not set it down, because it is some sort of a Scandal to be oblig'd to Repell a Scandal, tho' the most Innocent may be Subject to it) she is Sister to a Gentleman who is the Chief of a Clan there, and we may suppose in no great Favour with the *Presbytery*, his Sister was of an Untainted Reputation before this; Yet they Examined all their Witnesses against her as to her suppos'd *Adultery* with Mr. *Pearson*. But never Cited her self to Appear before them. And tho' she was Acquitted by all the Female Witnesses, as well the others, None of which cou'd lay the least Scandal to her Charge; yet she is grown Melancholy to have her Name so Blown about.

Country m. This is Intolerable! They may Blash any ones Reputation at this Rate! This is worse than a Popish Inquisition! But I long to know how Mr. *Pearson* came off.

(5.) Rehears. So clearly, that not one of all the many Witnesses they had by these means summon'd in against him cou'd say any thing to his Disadvantage, either as to *Adultery*, *Drunkennes*, or any other of the Crimes for which they Libell'd him.

Country m. Then how came the *Presbytery* off? Were not they Asham'd and Confounded for this Unjust and Malicious Prosecution? And did they not make some Reparation to Mr. *Pearson*, for all this Slander and Calumny cast upon him?

(6.) Rehears. That is not their way! The *Presbytery* did not, for all this, Acquitt him, nor withdrew their Process; but refer'd the Matter to the Synod of *Perth* and *Stirling*, which met at *Perth* the begin-

ning of *October*, 1707. And this Synod, to keep on the Process, appointed a Committee of 20 to Examine and Report to the next Synod which was to meet in April 1708. But the Result of the whole was, That the Synod at last, let the Prosecution drop (being Asham'd of it) but without any Censure upon the Proceedings of the *Presbytery* of *Dunkeld*, or Reparation to Mr. *Pearson*, or others whom they had Traduc'd.

(7.) Ther are several Particularities in this Case, worth Notice, which I shall not now Repeat. I'll tell you only one at this time, That the first Citation given to Mr. *Pearson* to appear before the *Presbytery*, was the very Day his Wife was Buried.

Country m. This was very Human! Not to say Christian! A Cordial in his Affliction! That he might not think too much of his Loss! Was it not Charity! To give him other Work to do!

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